

Parish Church of St.Guthlac, Market Deeping

Safeguarding Policy

1. **Promoting a safer environment and culture.** We will strive to create and maintain environments that are safer for all, that promote well-being, that prevent abuse, and that create nurturing, caring conditions within the Church for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Our Church Officers will respect all children, young people and vulnerable adults and promote their well-being.
2. **Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church.** We will select and vet all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church, in accordance with the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and practice guidance. We will train and equip Church Officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and to recognise and respond to abuse.
3. **Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.** Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or noncurrent abuse to the notice of the Church will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and practice guidance.
4. **Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.** We will endeavour to offer care and support to all those that have been abused, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred. Those who have suffered abuse within the Church will receive a compassionate response, be listened to and be taken seriously.
5. **Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.** The Church in exercising its responsibilities to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse will endeavour to respect the rights under criminal, civil and ecclesiastical law of an accused Church Officer including the clergy. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and Church inquiry processes. The Church will take responsibility for ensuring that steps are taken to protect others when any Church Officer is considered a risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
6. **Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.** The Church, based on the message of the gospel, opens its doors to all. We will therefore endeavour to offer pastoral care and support to any member of the church community whom may present a known risk. The Church will ensure that any risk has been assessed and is being managed in a safeguarding agreement in accordance with House of Bishops policy and practice guidance.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact either our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Anne Guthrie (safeguarding@stguthlacs.org.uk) or members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

Deborah Johnson. Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser 01522 504081 debbie.johnson@lincoln.anglican.org
Penny Turner. Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser 01522 504080 penny.turner@lincoln.anglican.org

Promoting a Safer Church in the Diocese of Lincoln

Parish of Market Deeping

At its meeting on 12th March 2019 it was agreed that the above would adhere to the current House of Bishops' Policy and Practice Guidance in relation to Safeguarding and would uphold the foundations of the good news of the Gospel that speak of welcome for all. We will pay a particular regard to our care for those who are most vulnerable. We will seek to welcome them into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. We confirm that being faithful to our call to share the gospel compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and of responding well where it has.

We will fully accept the Policy Statement of the Church of England – **Promoting a Safer Church** found at <https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/safeguarding-statements-and-policies> as the policy statement for this Parish.

We commend for use in this place, the Diocesan Handbook for Parishes in relation to Safeguarding. We recognize it is written to ensure that God's love for all his people is manifested in the way we care for each other and how we respond to those who are vulnerable and in need. In all our interactions with each other we will seek to manifest the commandment to love one another and demonstrate respect for the dignity of each individual created in God's own image.

The below safeguarding policies and procedures are written to support our mission and ministry and therefore all who are ordained, in licensed ministry, paid work or volunteer roles within this Parish will agree to have due regard for :

Policy Statements

Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement (2017)
Protecting All God's Children (safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010)
Promoting a Safe Church (safeguarding policy for adults, 2006)

Practice Guidance

Parish Safeguarding Handbook (2018)
Key roles and responsibilities of church office holders and bodies practice guidance (2017)
Responding to, assessing and managing concerns or allegations against church officers practice guidance (2017)
Responding well to domestic abuse practice guidance (2017)
Training and development practice guidance (2017)
Safer recruitment practice guidance (2016)
Responding well to those who have been sexually abused practice guidance (2011)
Safeguarding in religious communities practice guidance (2015)

This commitment will be reviewed on March 2020

Signed Katharine Brown

Role: Vice Chair of PCC

Promoting a Safer Church

In the Diocese of Lincoln

Confident disciples in the joyful service of their church and community actively promote the welfare of all who are vulnerable. We can work together to prevent harm from occurring. This is Safeguarding

The House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policies were adopted by the Diocese of Lincoln at the Diocesan Synod 3rd November 2018. The Diocese renewed its commitment to follow all of the updated House of Bishop's safeguarding policies and practice guidance at Diocesan Synod on 3rd November 2018.

The Overarching Safeguarding Policy Document **Promoting a Safer Church** can be found at <https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/safeguarding-statements-and-policies>

Synod mandated the adoption of The Parish Safeguarding Handbook across all Church of England contexts in Greater Lincolnshire to provide the cornerstone to safer working practice in our churches and safer care for all God's People.

Synod agreed the principle that the care and protection of everyone involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church in Greater Lincolnshire. Everybody who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all and in preventing harm to the vulnerable.

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, all licensed clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs must have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (this will include both policy and practice guidance). A duty to have 'due regard' to guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so. ('Cogent' for this purpose means clear, logical and convincing.) Failure by clergy to comply with the duty imposed by the 2016 Measure may result in disciplinary action. (*Church of England Safeguarding Children Young People, Adults 2017*)

For the purposes of all safeguarding guidance and all Church policy **a child is anyone under the age of eighteen years.**

For the purpose of Church policy and guidance **the definition of "vulnerable adult"** is contained in the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. That defines a "vulnerable adult" as **a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired'**. Please note that the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 (14.2) by the Department of Health uses the term 'adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect' in order to assess eligibility to statutory social care services.

However, the term 'vulnerable adult' is used in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and other legislation in relation to eligibility for criminal record checks and as a result appears in DBS guidance.

For advice on all safeguarding issues including allegations or suspicions of abuse contact:

Deborah Johnson. Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)01522 504081 debbie.johnson@lincoln.anglican.org

Penny Turner. Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. 01522 504080 penny.turner@lincoln.anglican.org